

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 087934  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY D/LOS:A BERLIND  
APPROVED BY D/LOS: A BERLIND  
ARA/PPC: R BRUCE (SUB)  
NSC: R PASTOR  
S/S: RCASTRODALE

-----004399 060050Z /61

O 060033Z APR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087934

STADIS//////////

EXDIS GENEVA FOR AMB RICHARDSON CARACAS FOR AMB VAKY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS DISCUSSION BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND  
PRESIDENT PEREZ

1. FOLLOWING REPRESENTS INFORMAL UNCLEARED REPORT OF  
DISCUSSION OF LOS BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND VENEZUELAN  
PRESIDENT PEREZ IN CARACAS ON MARCH 29.

2. PRESIDENT PEREZ, WHO INITIATED DISCUSSION, EXPRESSED  
CONCERN ABOUT THE LOS CONFERENCE AND SPECIFICALLY ABOUT  
PROSPECT THAT THE US WOULD ACT UNILATERALLY IN SEABED  
MINING. THIS WOULD OPEN A PANDORA'S BOX AND OTHER NATIONS  
WOULD FEEL JUSTIFIED IN ACTING UNILATERALLY AS WELL. THE  
SITUATION WOULD BE CHAOTIC. PEREZ SAID THAT HIS CONCERN  
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PAGE 02 STATE 087934

WAS NOT JUST RELATED TO SEABEDS PER SE, BUT RATHER TO  
EFFECT OF UNILATERAL ACTION ON THE OVERALL TONE OF THE  
NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. IF THE US PROCEEDS UNILATERALLY, IT  
WOULD OPEN THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE TO ATTACKS ON NORTH  
AMERICAN IMPERIALISM. HE SAID THAT "WE" HAVE BEEN PATIENT  
IN THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, AND THAT THE US SHOULD BE  
PATIENT IN LOS.

3. PRESIDENT CARTER SAID HE SHARED PRESIDENT PEREZ' CONCERNS. CONGRESS IS HARD TO RESTRAIN. THERE IS A STRONG

LIKELIHOOD OF LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING DEEP SEABED MINING. THERE IS A TREMENDOUS INTEREST AND CAPABILITY IN MINING THE SEABEDS, AND LEGISLATION IS A PROBABILITY. THE PRESIDENT STRESSED THAT THIS WAS NOT A THREAT, BUT JUST A REALISTIC EVALUATION.

4. PRESIDENT CARTER SAID HE WANTED TO MAKE TWO POINTS:

(A) HE WILL TRY TO AVOID UNILATERAL ACTIONS ON SEABED MINING;

(B) IF WE DO ACT UNILATERALLY HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO SEE THAT SUCH ACTION IS NOT PREJUDICIAL TO THE INTERESTS OF THE LDC'S.

HE SAID THAT IF LEGISLATION IS PASSED, HE WOULD TRY TO ASSURE THAT BENEFITS ARE FAIRLY DISTRIBUTED IN CONFORMITY WITH EXISTING PROPOSALS IN THE LOS DISCUSSIONS.

5. PRESIDENT CARTER SAID THAT OUR DIFFERENCES ARE DEEP. IN PARTICULAR, THE PROSPECT OF A CHANGE IN THE LOS CONFERENCE PRESIDENCY BOTHERS US. THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT IN-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 087934

VESTMENT IN TIME UP TO NOW. TO CHANGE THE LEADERSHIP WOULD DELAY THINGS A YEAR. PERHAPS MORE THAN IN ANY OTHER SUBJECT, THE ISSUES OF LOS HAVE BEEN AIRED AND INTENSELY DEBATED. PRESIDENT CARTER SAID HE HOPED THERE WOULD BE FLEXIBILITY ON BOTH SIDES.

6. PRESIDENT CARTER ENDED THE CONVERSATION BY SUGGESTING THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO HAVE QUIET, BILATERAL TALKS AT A HIGH LEVEL AS EARLY AS THE WEEK OF APRIL 3 IN AN ATTEMPT TO DEFINE LOS ISSUES AND EXPLORE SOLUTIONS. PRESIDENT PEREZ AGREED. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** PRESIDENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE087934  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS, STADIS  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** PLOS, (CARTER, JIMMY), (PEREZ, CARLOS ANDRES)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014